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Community Involvement Plan Taylor Lumber and Treating Site Sheridan, Oregon

This Community Involvement Plan identifies community concerns about the Taylor Lumber and Treating site. The site was proposed to be added to EPA's Superfund National Priorities List in December 2000. This plan also outlines opportunities for the public to become involved in future investigation and cleanup activities.

This plan was developed in consultation with members of the community, and we welcome further community input at any time. **As EPA begins the long-term cleanup phase of this project, we recognize that there may be additional concerns and/or information we should hear. Please feel free to contact Debra Packard, Community Involvement Coordinator, at any time to share your ideas and concerns. She can be reached toll-free at 1-800-424-4372, extension 0247.**

We are posting it on the EPA Region 10 web page at <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>. If you have questions about this site, this plan, or would like additional information, please call, write, or e-mail:

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This plan contains:

- Community Concerns
- Community Involvement Activities
- Summary of Removal Activities and Next Steps
 - General Health Effects from Woodtreating Chemicals
 - Threats to the Environment
- Site Description and Background
- What Is Superfund?
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EPA encourages meaningful community involvement. The goals of this plan are to:

- inform the public of current and planned site activities
- maintain open communication about site cleanup, ensuring questions are answered and concerns are addressed as they occur
- provide citizens with opportunities to comment on and be involved in EPA cleanup decisions that will have long-term effects on their community

Community Concerns

Representatives from EPA met with local officials in December 1999 to discuss the site. The interviews helped EPA understand community concerns and how residents would like to stay informed about and be involved in the cleanup process.

Summary of comments from December 1999 interviews:

- The Sheridan City Manager and a Yamhill County Commissioner both wanted to know if the company had been cooperative with EPA and how long the removal would take to complete.
- The City of Sheridan was concerned that the city water stay protected. One of the water intake pipes is located on the Yamhill River, approximately 1-1/2 miles down from the Taylor site. Tests have been conducted of the intake pipes and no contamination has been detected.
- When asked about how to keep the community informed of activities at the site, two newspapers were mentioned, The News Register and the Sheridan Sun. KLYC and Cable Channel 5 were mentioned as other news media to use.
- Both the City Manager and the County Commissioner said that public meetings should be used only if there was major news to report.
- Concern was expressed about the company staying in business. Both officials said they recognized that something needed to be done and the cleanup should take place. However, they would like to see the company continue operating because they employ a number of people in the area.

If you have ideas or concerns to share regarding this plan or community involvement at this site, please call Debra Packard at 1-800-424-4372, extension 0247.

Community Involvement Activities

During the investigation and the following long-term cleanup process, EPA will continue to distribute information on site activities. Public officials and the press will be briefed as needed.

Sampling results will be communicated to the public in fact sheets. EPA will hold public informational meetings as needed. This Community Involvement Plan will be updated as we hear from the community, and more information provided as necessary during the cleanup process.

EPA community involvement activities for this site include

- An information repository has been established at the Sheridan Public Library to make fact sheets and other site-related documents available for public review. Documents will be added as they become available. The library is located at 142 N.W. Yamhill Street.
- A site mailing list has been generated and will be updated on a regular basis.
- Four fact sheets have been distributed, in November 1999, December 2000, July 2000, and November 2000.
- Interviews were conducted in December 1999 to provide information for this Community Involvement Plan. We welcome additional comments and ideas.

Some of the tools that EPA plans to use to keep the community informed and involved in the activities at the site are listed below. The level of community interest will be closely monitored and activities will be conducted as appropriate. This list can be updated at any time and EPA welcomes additional suggestions from community members.

Public Meetings

If the community indicates an interest, public meetings will be used to provide important information. All public meetings will be announced in future fact sheets and notices in the Sheridan Sun.

Fact Sheets

Fact sheets and other information materials summarizing activities, and site-related technical documents and reports, will be mailed to EPA's mailing list. *To be added to the mailing list, please call Debra Packard at 1-800-424-4372, extension 0247.*

Internet Website

A website on the Taylor site activities is located at <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>. Click on "Index," then click on "T"

Additional Community Involvement Activities, If Requested

Technical Assistance Grants

EPA will provide information on Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) to all interested parties. A TAG provides funds to citizen groups that are affected by Superfund. Grant money is used to hire technical advisors to help interpret and explain technical materials produced as part of the Superfund process.

Grants up to \$50,000 are available, and require the group to match a local share contribution of 20% of total program cost. EPA recognizes the value of your group's skills and time. The TAG Program allows you to count the value of volunteer services and contributions of supplies toward the required 20% match. Donated office equipment and time, as well as cash, count towards this 20% match. Volunteer services and donated supplies used toward your match are called "in-kind contributions." To receive more information about TAGs, please call Jeanne O'Dell, EPA Region 10 TAG Coordinator, at (206) 553-6919, or toll-free at 1-800-424-4372, extension 6919.

Workshops

Informal workshops are not planned at this time. However, citizens may request a workshop on such topics as: Sampling Techniques, Potential Health and Environmental Risks Associated with the Site, and the Superfund Process.

Summary of Removal Activities and Next Steps

Immediate action was needed to protect against exposure to the chemicals found at the site. EPA used authorities and funding provided by the federal Superfund law to conduct the necessary immediate cleanup activities.

During 2000, EPA and Taylor removed 4,200 tons of contaminated soil from ditches around the facility to keep it from washing into Rock Creek and the South Yamhill River. To prevent further movement of contaminated groundwater, EPA also built a slurry wall and an asphalt cap around the main treatment plant. The cap will minimize additional water seepage into the ground, where it could be contaminated by woodtreating chemicals in the soils and move toward the river. A second asphalt cap was built in the treated pole storage area. Both caps will limit airborne dust, which contains contaminants such as arsenic.

The next step is to design a comprehensive, long-term cleanup strategy to address contaminants in soil, groundwater, surface water, and possibly the South Yamhill River. EPA will start this study by using existing data to evaluate what types of contamination are at the site, and how much is present.

During this first phase of the study, called a "Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study" (RI/FS), highly contaminated areas that may need early cleanup will be identified. EPA will also identify what additional data is needed to complete the study. In the second phase of the RI/FS, EPA will sample as necessary to fill

in data gaps, evaluate the extent of the contamination at the site, evaluate cleanup alternatives, and then choose a final remedy for the site. EPA will hold a public comment period and hearing to gather input on all alternatives before this final remedy is chosen.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and EPA share responsibility for ensuring environmental rules are followed at Taylor Lumber. DEQ issues permits for air emissions and water discharges. EPA has the lead for hazardous waste management and cleanup.

General Health Effects from Woodtreating Chemicals

Pentachlorophenol (PCP) is mainly used for wood preservation, particularly the treatment of utility poles. PCP can easily enter the body if one breathes contaminated air, ingests contaminated water or food, or touches a contaminated surface. Brief exposure to high levels of PCP may cause damage to various organs or even death. Long-term exposure to lower levels of PCP can damage the liver, blood and the central nervous system. In addition, based on animal studies, EPA has classified PCP as a probable human carcinogen.

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are formed during incomplete burning of fossil fuel or any organic matter. Exposure to PAHs may occur by inhaling airborne particles, drinking water, eating contaminated food, or accidentally ingesting contaminated soil. Some PAHs are known carcinogens. Rapidly growing tissues, such as the intestinal lining, bone marrow, lymphoid organs, blood cells, and testes seem especially susceptible to non-carcinogenic effects of PAHs.

Dioxin is a colorless and odorless compound which can persist in the environment for a long time. These compounds can be formed during the manufacture or burning of certain chlorinated chemicals. Dioxins are also found

as impurities in some pesticides such as pentachlorophenol. Overexposure has caused chloracne, a severe skin lesion. Limited evidence suggests that dioxin causes liver damage and digestive disorders in humans. It is also classified as a probable human carcinogen. Animal studies have shown many different adverse effects that vary with the species studied.

Potential health problems from exposure depend on a variety of things, including the concentration level of the chemical; how the chemical entered the body; how long and how often one has been exposed; and how sensitive one is to its effect.

Threats to the Environment

The surface water from the Rock Creek Road drainage ditch, Rock Creek, and the planing mill and sawmill drainage ditches runs into the South Yamhill River. Sensitive steelhead and salmon fisheries live in the river.

Site Description and Background

The Taylor site processes and treats wood. The site covers about 234 acres and is one mile west of the City of Sheridan, Oregon. The site has a number of buildings including a maintenance shop, a sawmill, a tank farm with 13 above-ground storage tanks, and a laboratory. The surrounding area contains some residential and mostly commercial/industrial properties. The site is located alongside the Yamhill river.

The sawmill began operating in 1946. Operations include the peeling, milling, planing, and chipping of raw wood to produce lumber products. The ends of the finished lumber products are painted in order to prevent moisture loss. Wood chips and bark are used as hog fuel in the boiler, which generates steam for the facility. Waste and debris from site operations were deposited in an area southeast of the planing mill from the 1960s through the 1980s.

Wood treating to condition and pressure-treat wood products with preservatives began in 1966. Wood preserving chemicals include petroleum-based creosote and PCP solutions. Chemonite, which contains arsenic acid, copper salts, zinc, and ammonia, was also used as a wood preservative from 1982 to 1996.

The facility had numerous oil spills of PCP and creosote, including one in February 1999 of 3,500 gallons and another in September 1999 of 30,000 gallons. Cleanup of the spills has been completed.

Surface water from the drainage ditches surrounding the facility drain into the South Yamhill River. The City of Sheridan municipal water intake is located approximately 1-½ miles downstream from one of the drainage ditches. The Yamhill River is also used for recreational fishing and has sensitive fisheries, including steelhead & salmon.

The site was proposed to be added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) on December 1, 2000. The NPL is a list of sites targeted for further investigation and long-term cleanup under Superfund.

What is Superfund?

In 1980, Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), which was amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). These two laws are commonly known as Superfund.

Superfund gives the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authority to investigate and clean up releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances. The Superfund process is complex and can take many years to complete. On average, a site can stay on the NPL anywhere from six to ten years, and some sites are still on the list from 15-20 years.

If an immediate problem threatens public health or the environment, EPA also has the authority under Superfund to address the situation quickly through a removal action.

Superfund Information Available on the Internet

Superfund Program Acronym Glossary
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/gloss1.htm>

Glossaries of environmental terms
<http://www.epa.gov/ocepa111/OCEPAterms/>
<http://www.epa.gov/oerrpage/superfund/resources/hrstrain/htmain/glossal.htm>

Superfund Frequently Asked Questions
http://www.epa.gov/superfund/faqs/sf_faqs.htm

Site Contacts

EPA Officials:
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You may also call EPA toll-free at
1-800-424-4372

The Administrative Record, a file containing all information used to make decisions on cleanup actions for the site, will be available at the following locations:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Seventh Floor Records Center
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

and

Sheridan Public Library
142 N.W. Yamhill Street
Sheridan, Oregon

EPA Region 10 Webpage: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

People with impaired hearing or speech may contact EPA's telecommunications device for the hearing impaired (TDD) at (206) 553-1698. To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the numbers listed above.



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